

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 400

The meeting of the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05 pm on Monday, April 13, 2015 in Room 400 of the West Hartford Town Hall. Approximately 25 people were in attendance.

Members at the Bicycle Advisory Committee present were Scott Franklin, Chair, James Green, Daniel Firestone, Laurie Silverman, Mary-Ellen Thibodeau and Sandra Fry. Absent were Mary Collins, Ken Livingston and Jamie Sullivan.

The Committee heard reports from the Bike Routes and Bike Lanes Task Force, the Complete Streets Policy Task Force, the North Main Street Road Diet Task Force and the Big Event Task Force.

At the meeting, the following matters were discussed:

1. Kevin Vicha reported that his task force met immediately before the WHBAC Meeting. His task force will be setting up monthly meetings with Duane Martin to further the goal of establishing appropriate bike routes and bike lanes throughout the Town of West Hartford.
2. Sandy reported that her task force has revised the Complete Street policy and the accompanying resolution. The WHBAC will be sending the proposed revisions to the Town Council and to Town staff. The Town Council will be voting on the Complete Streets policy at the May 12, 2015 meeting. WHBAC members are urged to attend.
3. Steve and Mary-Ellen reported on the North Main Street Road Diet. They stated that members of their task force had walked down North Main Street two weeks ago to survey the area. Sandy reported that CRCOG has selected the consultant that will perform the feasibility study. The contract should be signed shortly.
4. Jim and Laurie reported on the Discover West Hartford bike ride. The ride will be held on Saturday, June 6, the weekend of Celebrate West Hartford. The ride will start and end at Kingswood Oxford School. The MDC has given the Committee the right to have the route go through the Farmington Avenue Reservoir. Volunteers and advertisers are desperately needed.
5. Scott reported that Lene has continued to work on the "Cycling without Age" project. Although she has run into some road blocks, she is confident that she can get this activity off the ground.
6. Jen reported that Wednesday, May 6 is National Bike to School Day. She stated that Bugbee School will have a bike to school event on that day. She is hoping that other schools will follow suit.
7. Scott reported that he has renewed the membership of the WHBAC with the League of American Bicyclists and has renewed the insurance.

8. Ethan reported on the Center Streets project. This endeavor will be a street festival in late August or early September whereby parts of Farmington Avenue, Main Street and LaSalle Road will be closed to vehicles and will be opened exclusively to bicycles and pedestrians. Ethan and Ed are working with the Town to plan this event. It is likely that it will be done in conjunction with the West Hartford Business Owners Association's "Taste of West Hartford" event.

9. Scott reported that the two day Bike Walk Connecticut summit will be held on April 23 and April 24 in Wethersfield. On April 23 will be an nacto bikeway design guide workshop. In attendance both days will be Roger Geller, the bicycle Czar from Portland, Oregon and a Hall graduate. In attendance on April 24 will be the current Connecticut DOT Commissioner, James Redeker.

10. Mary-Ellen stated that she and Lene attended the Chamber of Commerce presentation on April 21. Mary-Ellen asked questions of Mark McGovern regarding the Complete Streets policy.

11. Scott reported that the I Can Bike event will be held at Conard High School from Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 3. Volunteers are needed to staff this event. The I Can Bike event is a week long event which helps children with special needs learn to ride a two wheeler without training wheels. It is an incredibly fulfilling event and I hope that many towns people will assist. More information can be obtained by emailing sbf@franklinlaw.net.

12. Mary-Ellen spent a few minutes talking about why bike friendly communities are good for business. She has prepared a handout which was distributed at the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the oval outside the main entrance of the Town Hall. If the weather is not good, then we will meet in Room 400 of the West Hartford Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott B. Franklin, Chair
West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee